



EUGENE BLM

“ EYE TO THE FUTURE ”



Planning and Project Focus

November 2001

A Note from the District Manager

As always, this edition of “Eye to the Future” is prepared and distributed as part of our continuing effort to keep you informed of ongoing and proposed activities on the Eugene District.

I am now well into my second year serving as the District Manager. During this time, I have had the pleasure to meet and work with many of you on a variety of important issues. Let me take this opportunity to remind you that we seek ideas, comments and participation from those who are or may be affected by our management decisions. I invite any of you who have issues of concern or information to share, to contact me or any member of our District’s Leadership Team. Your involvement and input helps us to design and implement better projects.

As we begin a new fiscal year, our employees continue active involvement on several key issues. You may recall, we are required to establish a fifteen- member Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) to review and recommend projects for funding under the “Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. Membership of the Eugene RAC is in the final stages of selection and the first RAC meeting is expected to be held soon after the membership is approved by the Secretary of the Interior. The Eugene District has an array of projects ready for presentation to the RAC. We are working to prepare a Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for management options at the Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard. The EIS will analyze risks for potential use of pesticides (herbicides, fungicides, fumigants) and fertilizers. We are planning to develop a prototype Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) inventory and planning methodology. This effort will generate a prototype OHV Plan that will be used to define OHV management throughout the District, as part of implementation of the National OHV Strategy. Finally, all federal agencies are required to initiate additional security measures in response to the threat of terrorist activities. In an effort to make our facilities more secure, we have taken several steps that may impact you on a visit to our office. Visitor parking is now located in the west side parking lot, and will require a short walk to the front building entrance. In addition, visitors will be required to present photo identification, register and wear a name tag for a visit within our building.

Thanks for your interest in public land management. I look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions about how we can better serve you, and how we can improve BLM’s management of our Public Lands.

You are also invited to visit our web page at www.edo.or.blm.gov or E-Mail us at or090mb@or.blm.gov.

Julia Dougan, District Manager

EUGENE DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

District Manager	Julia Dougan
Assistant District Manager for Operations	Jack Hall
Assistant District Manager for Field Services	Polly Elliott
McKenzie Resource Area Field Manager	Emily Rice
Coast Range/South Valley Field Manager	Steve Calish

District Phone Number 541-683-6600 or Toll Free 1-888-442-3061

District-wide Projects

Project: Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Resource Advisory Committee

Contact: Wayne Elliott (541-683-6989)

Description: We are required to establish a fifteen- member Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) to review and recommend projects for funding under the “Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

Project: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Travis Tyrell Seed Orchard

Contact: Glenn Miller (541-683-6445)

Description: The EIS will analyze risks for potential use of pesticides (herbicides, fungicides, fumigants) and fertilizers.

Project: Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) inventory and planning methodology

Contact: Joe Williams (541-683-6121)

Description: This effort will generate a prototype OHV plan that will be used to define OHV management throughout the Eugene District, as part of implementation of the National OHV Strategy.

MCKENZIE RESOURCE AREA

<1>Gale Creek Restoration Project

Contact: Nikki Swanson (683-6161)

Location: T 17S, R2E, Sections 2 & 11

Gale Creek is currently an important stream for resident cutthroat trout in the McKenzie River Watershed. Historical reports suggest that it was also utilized by steelhead. Current surveys of Gale Creek indicate that instream habitat could be improved through restoration efforts.

The proposed action is to:

- G** Restore instream habitat in approximately ½ mile of Gale Creek
- G** Restore riparian vegetation by thinning hardwoods to release existing small conifers and plant conifers where they are currently lacking.
- G** Restore fish passage at the 17-2E-2 Road crossing of Gale Creek for all life stages of all species
- G** Decommision the road which is adjacent to Gale Creek in sections 2 and 11

COAST RANGE RESOURCE AREA

LONG TOM WATERSHED

<1> Bishops Hat Thinning Timber Sale

Contact: Graham Armstrong (683-6622)

Location: T17S, R7W, Sec 21

The proposed action is a commercial thinning sale in the Matrix Land Use Allocation. The action would involve approximately 160 acres of 50-58 year old timber. The area is approximately 9 air miles west of Noti Oregon and is located in the Long Tom Watershed.

Status: *Open for scoping comments on issues. An environmental assessment is anticipated to be available for public review and comment in November or December 2001.*

LAKE CREEK WATERSHED

<2> Upper Lake Creek Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) - Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP).

Contact: Saundra Miles (683-6227)

Location: 15,000 acres above Horton to the border of the BLM Salem District, includes Hult Reservoir, also known as the Mill Pond or Hult Pond. The SRMA is mostly in Lake Creek Watershed, but with some portions in Long Tom and South Fork Alsea watersheds.

Status: *The Resource Area (RA) is developing a recreation plan for this RMP designated area which is integrated with Transportation Management Planning. A Environmental Assessment (EA) is expected to be available for public review and comment in February 2002. If you would like to be on the mailing list contact Saundra Miles.*

<3> Windy Peak/Hancock Right-A-Way

Contact: Cheryl Adcock (683-6145)

Location: T.16S, R.8W, Section 28 & 33

The proposed project would grant a Right-A-Way to construct approximately 450 feet of road on BLM managed land to access John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. property.

Status: *Consultation with the USFWS is ongoing an Environmental Assessment is expected to be completed and available for public review and comment ...*

<4> Ferguson/Lake Creek Chip Seal project

Contact : Eric Meyers (683-6499)

Location: The proposed action is to convert 9.35 miles of existing aggregate surfaced road to a paved surface with a Bituminous Surface Treatment. The work would begin by leveling the existing roadbed by grading and placing compacted aggregate. The work would then consist of applying a fast curing liquid asphalt, topped with a layer of fine aggregate and compacted into the asphalt base. The process would be repeated and then topped with an asphalt seal coat. The proposed action would also replace worn culverts and install additional culverts as necessary to facilitate both ditch relief and stream crossings. Replacement culverts would comply with current BLM standards. All activity will occur on the existing road prism.

The proposed action could expect to occur in three phases beginning in the summer of FY 2002 (dates could be altered by budget or planning constraints) as follows:

Phase I: Road No.15-7-26 (Ferguson Road) / FY 2002

Beginning at the junction with Road No. 15-7-36, this project is approximately 3 miles in length that ends at the Hult Pond Dam. T.15 S., R.6 W., Section 19 T.15 S., R.7 W., Sections 24, 25 and 26.

Phase II: Road No. 15-7-35 (Lake Creek)/ FY 2003

Beginning at the end of the county road near the Horton store, this project is approximately 2.7 miles in length that ends at a bridge crossing Lake creek. T.15 S., R.7 W., Sections 23, 26 and 35.

Phase III: Road No. 15-7-23 (Prairie Mountain)/ FY 2004

Beginning at the junction with Road No. 15-7-35, this project is approximately 3.63 miles in length that ends at the junction with Road No. 15-7-17. T.15 S., R.7 W., Sections 16, 17, 21, 22 and 23.

Status: *Currently open to scoping issues for preparation of the Environmental Assessment.*

LOWER SIUSLAW WATERSHED

<5> Cannery Dune Oak Street Extension Right-of-Way Application

Contact: Dave Schroeder (683-6482)

Location: BLM parcel located within the city limits of Florence. T.18S, R.12W, SE1/4 NE1/4, Will. Mer.

The City of Florence is proposing the northward extension of Oak Street to the property boundary with Fred Meyers and then east to connect with Highway 101. An application for right of way has been received by the BLM.

Status: *Scoping for issues is underway for the Environmental Assessment planned to be available for public review and comment by February 2002.*

<6>Siuslaw Chip Seal Project

Contact : Eric Meyers (683-6499)

Location: The proposed maintenance action is to chip seal 62.94 miles of existing paved BST (bituminous surface treatment) BLM roads in the Siuslaw basin and 0.40 miles in the Willamette basin. Chip sealing consists of resurfacing an existing paved road with an oil emulsion and topped and compacted with open graded crushed aggregate, resulting in a renovated paved surface.

The purpose for this maintenance action is to keep water from seeping into an asphalt pavement base course and subgrade, improve skid resistance, rehabilitate weathered asphalt surfaces and demarcate traffic lanes. It has been 17 years (normal standard is 8 years) since these roads have been last sealed and a Condition Survey has rated the present condition of all roads in this project as fair to poor.

The proposed action would be performed in three segments as follows:

1) Rock Stockpiling. Surge stockpiles would be placed in existing stockpile sites, landings or turnouts. All proposed sites are on presently disturbed sites and no clearing is necessary. This segment would occur in 2002. Refer to Exhibits A and B for stock pile locations.

2) Road patching and leveling. This process prepares the road surface for the chip seal. It involves patching holes and leveling uneven road surfaces with the application of a hot asphalt mix. This needs to be done 1 year prior to the chip seal. This segment of the project would occur in 2002. Refer to Exhibit B for approximate application quantities and locations.

3) Chip Seal. This process involves brooming the road surface, applying a CRS-2 (cationic rapid setting asphalt emulsion) to the road surface at the rate of 0.50 gal./sq.yd. This is followed with the application of the chip seal aggregate. Chip Seal would occur in 2003.

Status: *Currently scoping issues for this road maintenance project through the interdisciplinary team for upcoming CE or EA preparation.*

SOUTH VALLEY RESOURCE AREA

SIUSLAW WATERSHED

<1> Douglas Creek Timber Sale

Contact: Alan Corbin (683-6792)

Location: T20S, R5W, Sec 3

This project includes a density management thinning on approximately 100 acres along Douglas Creek, a tributary to the Siuslaw River. The project area lies approximately 3 miles NW of Lorane.

Status: *An environmental assessment was originally prepared and released for public review in March 1998, and a decision regarding this action was made in July 1999. However, because of new direction regarding Survey and Manage Species, and the approval of the Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, the project was never implemented. Because of the changes made in the Survey and Manage program, the EA is being rewritten to include updated information. The EA is expected to be available for a new 30-day review in December, 2001. A final decision is anticipated by late winter, 2002.*

<2> Upper Siuslaw Matrix Restoration Plan

Contact: Chuck Vostal (683-6454)

Location: Upper Siuslaw Watershed, Matrix Land Use Allocation

The South Valley Resource Area is developing a watershed restoration plan for public lands in the Upper Siuslaw Watershed in the Matrix Land Use Allocation. Possible actions could include in-stream restoration projects, culvert replacement and barrier removals, and road decommissioning.

Status: *Resource specialists are conducting field inventories, and the scoping process is underway. A final decision is not anticipated until summer of 2002.*

UPPER COAST FORK WILLAMETTE WATERSHED

<3> Twin Prairie Timber Sale

Contact: Janet Zentner (683-6795)

Location: T22S, R3W, Sec 3

The proposal is to complete a density management thinning on roughly 85 acres. The project area is in the Upper Coast Fork Willamette watershed, about one mile east of Cottage Grove Lake.

Status: *An environmental assessment is being prepared and is anticipated to be available for public review in December, 2001. A final decision is anticipated in late winter, 2002.*

LOWER COAST FORK WILLAMETTE WATERSHED

<4> Valley Foothills Restoration Demonstration Site EA

Contact: Richard Hardt (683-6690)

Location: T19S, R4W, Sec 23

The proposed project is intended to restore oak and oak-conifer forests that were historically typical of the Willamette Valley foothill ecosystem, and to provide a site to demonstrate to the public the implementation and results of such restoration techniques. The proposed project area includes three stands. Two stands are being considered for restoration treatments: an approximately 10-year old stand that was planted following timber harvest and an approximately 35-year old Douglas-fir stand that regenerated naturally following timber harvest. The third stand – an older – is intended for inventory and comparison only and is not proposed for any treatment.

Status: *Scoping for this project is underway. An EA is scheduled to be completed in December 2001.*

MOSBY CREEK WATERSHED

<5> Huckleberry Mountain BLM Radio Tower Replacement

Contact: Rick Colvin (683-6659)

Location: T24S, R1W, Sec 6

The Huckleberry Mountain communications site contains a radio tower and repeater used by BLM personnel working in the southern portion of the Eugene District. The repeater and antenna require periodic maintenance, but the existing tower is no longer safe to climb to reach the radio antenna. BLM proposes to replace the existing tower with one of similar size and design.

Status: *Scoping for this project is underway.*

LOWER ROW CREEK WATERSHED

<6> South Lane Television, Inc. Translator Upgrade

Contact: Rick Colvin (683-6659)

Location: T21S, R1W, Sec 29

South Lane Television, Inc. owns and operates a television translator (repeater) on Hawley Butte under a communication site right-of-way issued by BLM. They have requested authorization to upgrade their facilities by replacing the existing tower with one that is 160 feet in height. They have also requested authorization to augment the existing propane-fired thermoelectric power system with solar/battery power.

Status: Scoping for this project is underway. An EA is scheduled to be completed in late winter, 2002.